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1 July 1992

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Forty-seventh session
Items 79 and 85 of the
preliminary list*
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 11
REGIONAL COOPERATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, signed at Istanbul by the heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 79 and 85 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, under agenda item 11.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation

The heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine,

1. Taking into account the profound and rapid changes in Europe and the determination of the peoples of the continent to shape a new era of peace and security on the basis of the principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act and the follow-up documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and particularly in the Charter of Paris for a new Europe;

2. Recognizing that a prosperous and united Europe will evolve on shared values, such as democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty and social justice, and equal security for all our countries;

3. Taking into consideration the potential of the participating States and the opportunities for enhancing the mutually advantageous economic cooperation arising from their geographic proximity and from the reform process and structural adjustments;

4. Conscious of the importance of the environmental problems of the Black Sea for the well-being of their peoples and recognizing that it is vital to ensure the environmental sustainability of their economic development;

5. Confirm the intention to develop economic cooperation as a contribution to the CSCE process, to the establishment of a Europe-wide economic area, as well as to the achievement of a higher degree of integration of the participating States into the world economy;

6. Share the common objectives to achieve the further development and diversification of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation among them as well as with other interested countries, to foster their economic, technological and social progress and to encourage free enterprise;

7. Agree that their economic cooperation will be developed in a manner not contravening their obligations and not preventing the promotion of the relations of the participating States with third parties, including international organizations, as well as the European Communities and the cooperation within the regional initiatives;

8. Aim to ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, thriving to promote friendly and good-neighbourly relations;

9. Declare that the economic cooperation among the participating States will be developed on the basis of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the decisions in the subsequent CSCE documents, as well as of the other universally recognized principles of international law;

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10. Agree that the economic cooperation will be promoted gradually and, while determining the priorities in this process, they will take into account the specific economic conditions, interests and concerns of the countries involved, and particularly the problems of the countries in transition to a market economy;

11. Affirm that the whole economic cooperation among their countries is open for the participation of other interested States, recognizing the provisions of this document. As regards projects of common interest, individual countries, their economic and financial institutions, enterprises and firms, as well as regional and international economic and financial institutions, could be involved in their realization;

12. Decide to develop comprehensive multilateral and bilateral Black Sea economic cooperation, covering the various fields of activity as specified below;

13. Affirming their determination to make best use of all possibilities and opportunities for expanding and multiplying their cooperation in the fields of economics, including trade and industrial cooperation, of science and technology and of the environment, the participating States declare that they will take from now on concrete steps in this process by identifying, developing and carrying out, with the participation of their competent organizations, enterprises and firms, projects of common interest, inter alia, in the following areas:

(a) Transport and communications, including their infrastructure;

(b) Informatics;

(c) Exchange of economic and commercial information, including statistics;

(d) Standardization and certification of products;

(e) Energy;

(f) Mining and processing of mineral raw materials;

(g) Tourism;

(h) Agriculture and agro-industries;

(i) Veterinary and sanitary protection;

(j) Health care and pharmaceutics;

(k) Science and technology;

14. In order to promote their cooperation, the participating States will act to improve the business environment and to stimulate individual and collective initiative of the enterprises and firms directly involved, mainly by:

(a) Facilitating, via bilateral negotiations, the prompt entry, stay and free movement of businessmen in their respective territories and encouraging direct contacts among enterprises and firms;

(b) Providing support for small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(c) Contributing to the expansion of their mutual trade in goods and services and ensuring conditions favourable to such development by continuing their efforts to reduce further or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds, in a manner not contravening their obligations towards third parties;

(d) Ensuring appropriate conditions for investment, capital flows and different forms of industrial cooperation, notably by concluding and putting into effect, in the near future, agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on the promotion and protection of investments;

(e) Encouraging the exchange of information on international tenders organized in the participating States so as to give the opportunity to their enterprises and firms to participate therein, in accordance with the national rules and practices;

(f) Encouraging cooperation in free economic zones;

15. The participating States will take appropriate steps, including by promoting joint projects, for the protection of the environment, particularly the preservation and the improvement of the environment of the Black Sea, and the conservation, exploitation and development of its bio-productive potential;

16. The participating States will consider or encourage the conclusion of appropriate credit and financial arrangements at the governmental and non-governmental level and will seek to mobilize funds, including through international institutions and third parties, for the purpose of expanding their mutual economic and commercial cooperation and implementing specific projects of common interest in the Black Sea area. In this context, they will consider the possibilities and the ways of establishing a "Black Sea Foreign Trade and Investment Bank".

17. Meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the participating States will be convened regularly on a rotation basis, at least once a year, to review progress and to define new targets. By common understanding, ad hoc and permanent working groups of experts are to be set up to propose the necessary arrangements concerning the cooperation in different fields. The participating States consider that, at this stage of their cooperation, it is necessary to ensure institutional flexibility. Representatives of the business community should be invited to this process so as to benefit from their practical experience;

18. Those States which commit themselves to the observance of the provisions of the present document can join, with the approval of the participating States, the whole process of cooperation; organizations, enterprises and firms of third parties will also be given the possibility of indicating their interest in projects of common interest and, in case of agreement, of taking part in their implementation. Regional and international economic and financial institutions may also contribute in the carrying out of these projects.

Sali BERISHA
President of the Republic of Albania

Levon TER-PETROSYAN
President of the Republic of Armenia

Ebulfaz ELCHIBAY
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Jelyu JELEV
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of the State Council of Georgia

Constantin MITSOTAKIS
Prime Minister of the Republic of Greece

Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova

Ion ILIESCU
President of the Republic of Romania

Boris YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

Süleyman DEMIREL
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Leonid KRAVCHUK
President of Ukraine

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Item 69 of the preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 1 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter addressed to you by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, His Excellency Mr. Dobrica Cosić, on the occasion of assuming the post of the President (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 69 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you at the time when I have assumed the exceptionally responsible office of President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at this fateful moment for the peoples who have decided to continue living in their common State of Yugoslavia.

You are well aware of the roots and genesis of the Yugoslav crisis. In the process of the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, an important European country and a founder of the United Nations, there have been many imprudent moves and mistakes, which have led to armed conflicts of the most tragic proportions and to the endangering of all the basic human rights and freedoms, including, above all, the right to life.

The vital interest of the peoples whose representatives have elected me and my main concern is to see peace fully restored as soon as possible and a just settlement achieved on the entire space of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and all outstanding problems between the States emerging from the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia resolved in a democratic manner, with the shortest possible delay. In that context, it is necessary most urgently to put an end to the tragic war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and embark on its peaceful resolution on the basis of agreement between the three ethnic communities living there. These are the expectations of the international community, and on our part we shall do everything in our power to persuade the parties to the conflict, including the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to renounce all use of force and revanchism.

The basis of my efforts, both on the internal as well as on the international plane, are the democratic will of the people, commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and all other United Nations documents and documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). I shall spare no effort for the implementation of common European values in Yugoslavia as an organic part of the overall CSCE space.

My principal objectives on the domestic level are: to establish a free market economy and to encourage entrepreneurial and private enterprise; to assert the rule of law and to establish a democratic society; to ensure full respect for human rights and freedoms and their effective and concrete protection throughout the territory of Yugoslavia; to promote further the pluralist democratic system by agreement of all political forces and parties in the country and by paying due attention to the opposition in all spheres of political life; to provide all the objective conditions for the freedom of thought, speech and information; to establish a political dialogue with representatives of the national minorities, with a view to ensuring the exercise of their rights in accordance with the highest international

principles and standards, and a democratic normalization of the situation in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija.

As I set out in my inaugural address to the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia, I shall urge that new elections be called for the entire administration within the most reasonable time-frame; that wise and resolute changes be effected which would mark a complete break with the previous order, with the aim of building up as soon as possible a modern and democratic State based on law; and that all national and social programmes be adjusted to the conditions prevailing in the present-day world and the civilization we are living in.

I shall invest all my efforts to implement these changes, because I am deeply convinced that they are in our vital and State interest.

At the foreign-policy level, it is my aim, besides all-round and peaceful cooperation with all the countries of the world community, for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a European and non-aligned country, to continue to extend support to the United Nations and actively to contribute to the strengthening of the role and efficiency of the world Organization, as well as to its reknown in the world.

In that connection, I would like to assure you that I will spare no effort to have the above-mentioned changes and objectives attained, as it is in the interest not only of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia but also necessary for resolving the overall Yugoslav crisis. In that context, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will conscientiously discharge all its obligations assumed at the international level, including those stemming from its membership in the United Nations and in international organizations. Accordingly, we consistently adhere to the decisions of the Security Council and shall exert every effort to implement all our obligations and create the best possible conditions for the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR).

The vital interest of the people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the most urgent cessation of the tragic war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a peaceful settlement of all conflicts in that Republic by an international conference and on the basis of a consensus of the three constituent peoples living there.

We believe that it is essential that an international conference be convened as soon as possible to deal with the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the participation of yourself, Mr. Secretary-General, the permanent members of the Security Council, the Chairman of CSCE, the Chairman of the European Community, Lord Carrington, and the interested parties from Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are ready to participate in such a conference.

With a view to creating the necessary conditions and eliminating possible obstacles to the convening of this international conference, we reiterate that United Nations observers should be sent as soon as possible to the border

between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with a view to establishing objectively the situation on the ground.

We also believe that it would be very important if you or your personal envoy and representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council visited the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as soon as possible so as to acquaint yourselves comprehensively, through direct contacts, will all the aspects of the crisis and with the possibilities for resolving it.

My principal concern is to see peace fully restored as soon as possible and a just settlement achieved on the entire space of the former Yugoslavia and all outstanding problems between the States emerging from the former Yugoslavia resolved by democratic means. We would be prepared to accept the extension of the mandate of the above-mentioned international conference to include these issues as well, if an agreement to that effect were to be reached among the other participants.

Finally, I wish in particular to stress that the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expect that the fulfilment of the above-mentioned objectives and initiatives will contribute to the restoration of peace on the space of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the earliest possible lifting of the drastic international sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which are unjustifiably and severely affecting all strata of our population, without contributing to a just settlement of the crisis in the least.

Confident that I shall meet with your understanding and support in this respect, I would like to assure you once again that, as the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I will do everything in my power to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, with a view to their even more efficient work, and to reiterate how highly we appreciate your responsible and constructive role.

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Forty-seventh session
Item 67 of the preliminary list*

STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the Presidency of the Council of the European Economic Community and its member States on the assassination of President Boudiaf, issued at Lisbon on 29 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 67 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on the assassination of President Boudiaf, issued by the Presidency of the Council of the European Economic Community on 29 June 1992

The Presidency of the Council of the European Economic Community has noted with dismay the tragic events in Annaba, in particular the death of Mr. Mohammed Boudiaf, President of the High State Committee of Algeria.

The Presidency reiterates its firm condemnation of the use of violence, irrespective of its aims, and trusts that this regrettable event will not prejudice Algeria's pursuit of the democratic process.

The Presidency expresses its solidarity with the people of Algeria and recalls the wish of the European Economic Community, set out in the Declaration of the Lisbon European Council, to contribute to the stability and the prosperity of Algeria, in particular, and the Mediterranean region, in general.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Item 79 of the preliminary list*
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 12
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts in English and French of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (see annex), adopted at the Summit on the economic advancement of rural women, which was held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex published as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 79 of the preliminary list, and of the substantive session of 1992 of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 12.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

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* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

The Geneva Declaration for Rural Women,
adopted at the Summit on the economic advancement of rural women
(Geneva, 25 and 26 February 1992)

PREAMBLE

1. We, the wives of Heads of State or Government from Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania, have gathered here to express our solidarity with the rural women of the world. By expressing our solidarity, we are determined to raise the awareness of decision-makers, at the national, regional and international levels, of the condition of rural women. We declare our commitment to their social and economic advancement and, thereby, to the enhancement of the well-being of the rural family and to equitable, sustainable development.

2. We recognize the importance and value of rural women's contribution to democracy and socio-economic development. We also recognise that in many developing countries, women constitute more than 50% of the rural population and up to 50%-70% of the agricultural labour force. Without their effective participation neither democracy nor development can be sustained. It is therefore necessary that rural women's multiple contributions to the family, to democracy and to development be acknowledged and properly valued. The undervaluing of rural women's contribution to development and their under-representation in decision-making have increased their marginalization.

3. We believe that the current global movement towards democracy will help to change social and political attitudes towards women and their access to and control over resources, while creating conditions under which rural women themselves will be more aware of their own self-image and rights. Therefore, we declare our resolve to play a decisive role in the democratization of our political systems, from grassroots to national level.

4. Rural women the world over are an integral and vital force in the development processes that are the key to socio-economic progress. Rural women include farmers, wage workers, petty traders, artisans, industrial home workers, micro-producers and domestic servants. They form the backbone of the agricultural labour force across much of the developing world and produce 35%-45% of Gross Domestic Product and well over 50% of the developing world's food. Yet, over half a billion rural women are poor and lack access to resources and markets. In fact, the number is estimated to have increased by 50% over the past 20 years and today they outnumber poor men.

5. Among the factors that have contributed to the intensification of poverty over the last decade are: on-going economic crises in the developing world due to deteriorating terms of trade, the debt crisis, inefficient allocation of government expenditures, capital flight, the social costs of adjustment, political instability, recession in the developed world, environmental degradation and demographic pressure. Women's poverty has also been aggravated for a variety of reasons, among which are changes in

household and family structures leading to a growing number of female-headed households and to a weakening of household survival strategies. In many developing countries today, more than one-third of rural households are headed by a female.

6. Poverty intensifies the constraints under which women struggle to survive and carry out their responsibility to provide family and national food security.

7. The lack of support for women's economic activities, and particularly for those of the poorest, is not simply a women's issue. It is a general development problem which must be addressed, because gender equality, poverty reduction and development are inextricably linked.

8. Up to 90% of rural women in developing countries rely on the land for their livelihood. They are the main providers of water and fuelwood and are responsible for the health of their families. Rural women are vulnerable to environmental degradation and the diminution of natural resources, and they cannot always rely on the sustained use of resources when these are under pressure. It is important to consider, as a priority, training strategies for rural women on alternative technologies for domestic fuels. Furthermore, recognizing that rural women are central to sustaining the resource base and that they are often at the forefront of popular movements to protect the environment, development interventions must draw upon their traditional knowledge and experience of environmental conservation.

9. Building on the Mexico and the Copenhagen Declarations, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development of African Women, and in view of the forthcoming 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, we women around the world are determined to arouse public opinion and mobilize all necessary political will and resources in order to transform the status and quality of life of rural women and their families.

10. In this context, we take note of the plans of action and the specific guidelines developed by a number of United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations for the advancement of rural women in accordance with their own mandates.

11. Rural women's social and economic advancement has to be promoted within the framework of national plans for social and economic development. In this process close cooperation and partnership between men and women is essential. This cooperation must be strengthened at all levels of development intervention by making public opinion and policy-makers and implementers aware of the importance of the multiple roles of women.

● OBJECTIVES ●

12. In their operational strategies and action programmes, many national governments, development organizations and international financial institutions address the problem of women in general, without specifically focusing on rural women. We urge that future strategies and actions have as their primary focus the condition of rural women, especially the poorest. The objectives of such efforts should be to:

(i) Mobilize political will at the national and international levels in order to target rural women as participants and direct beneficiaries of all development policies, programmes and projects.

(ii) Ensure that the economic needs and well-being of rural women are taken account of in all sectoral policies and programmes by bringing into sharp focus the role of women in household, productive and community work, in the design of development interventions and the adequate allocation of resources.

(iii) Improve rural women's access to resources through alternative policy instruments that ensure more equitable gender-based distribution of land, labour, capital, technology, social services and infrastructure.

(iv) Launch initiatives essential for raising the productive capacities of both men and women, with special attention to rural women from disadvantaged households, female-headed households, young rural women, disabled women, and migrant and displaced women.

(v) Promote national and household food security by supporting the critical role of women in food production and income generation.

(vi) Alleviate women's heavy workload, which often involves long hours spent daily gathering fuel, collecting water, producing and preparing food, maintaining their homes, nurturing their children and, in addition, earning incomes that are essential to the survival of their families.

(vii) Improve the health and nutritional status of mothers and their children and thereby the quality of life of the family.

(viii) Reorient the information, communication and educational systems so that they meet the specific needs of rural women while preserving and promoting their cultural identity.

(ix) Optimize the role of rural women as agents of change, and create conditions for their social, political and economic empowerment.

(x) Create opportunities for rural women to assume leadership positions in the decision-making process.

(xi) Promote, strengthen and disseminate rural women's organizations in order to establish effective channels for their access to decision-making bodies at all levels.

(xii) Develop a constructive partnership between men and women in rural areas, based on social mobilization and an enhanced understanding of women's multiple roles and economic needs.

● STRATEGIES ●

13. In order to achieve measurable progress in the economic advancement of rural women and improve the welfare of rural families around the world, with particular focus on the poorest, we define and recommend the following strategies, recognizing that full political commitment is a precondition for their successful implementation:

(i) Governments, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector agencies, United Nations agencies and other donor agencies should allocate greater resources to promote the economic and social advancement of rural women.

(ii) Rural women should be invited to participate in the formulation of development plans and policies which affect their well-being. Project design teams should include representatives of rural women to ensure that they benefit equitably from development.

(iii) New legislation and institutional procedures should be introduced and/or the existing ones reformed in order to ensure that rural women have equitable and sustainable access to productive resources. Similar measures should be taken to ensure that women have equity in inheritance, marriage, divorce and child custody Also, legal and administrative measures should be taken to protect rural women from exploitation in the labour, capital and product markets. They must be assured of equal pay for equal work. | with due regard for different legal systems.

(iv) Mechanisms must be established, with adequate resource support, to provide gender-analysis training to policy-makers, development practitioners and field workers and to collect and analyse local, national, and regional data. These will assist policy-makers and project designers in assessing the socio-economic condition of rural women so that they can target development interventions at the disadvantaged groups and design indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of projects. This action is recommended in view of the fact that data reflecting the economic and social significance of rural women's work, disaggregated by gender and income levels, are scarce. Even where they exist, they rarely appear in the government statistics used to formulate policies and develop programmes, largely because the economic value of much of women's work is not properly measured.

(v) Similar mechanisms should be in place to make information available to rural women on a wide range of subjects relevant to their needs and constraints. All rural women must have secure access to information in areas that they consider of most importance, and they should be made aware of their rights as well as of the resources, technology,

production, social services, market opportunities and credit available to them. Women should also be given access to training in communication techniques so that they can produce and circulate their own information materials as needed. The mass media such as newspapers, radio, television and films should have special space and time allocated for programmes for rural women in which they would not only be the focus but could also express their views.

(vi) Existing land legislation should be reviewed so that rural women are not discriminated against in gaining access to land. Institutions should be set up to promote a more equitable distribution of land, and to ensure the security of women's access to land of good quality. Women should be considered as direct beneficiaries of agrarian reform or settlement programmes and land property titles should be registered under the name of women tenants as well as men. Mechanisms should also be in place to reduce women's vulnerability to loss of land in cases of divorce, separation and widowhood. Support should be mobilized to protect individual and communal landholdings, and natural resources from environmental damage.

(vii) Policy and resource support should be provided to strengthen programmes and projects which raise rural women's non-agricultural self-employment and improve their access to micro-enterprises. A network of rural women's enterprises should be established to facilitate entry into large-scale outlets and marketing organizations.

(viii) Rural women's access to credit and financial services should be improved, on the basis of gender equality, by encouraging financial institutions to create new procedures for reaching rural beneficiaries and promoting community groups that will provide a local structure for improving rural women's access to information, training and guarantees, so that credit can be readily made available to them.

(ix) National, regional and international research institutions should reorient their programmes to address the problems of rural women, particularly in areas of technology for alternative energy sources and improved productivity and time-saving for women, keeping in view the requirements of health and safety. Rural women should also have full access to modern institutions and technology. Priority should be given to infrastructure development to improve women's access to water, fuel, and health, education and extension services.

(x) Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need. National extension systems should be reoriented in order to disseminate appropriate technologies for women. To make extension services more effective, the curriculum for extension workers should include gender sensitization. The number of women extension workers should be increased and local women trained as extension workers. The language of extension should be accessible to rural women. Strong links should be established between researchers, women farmers and extension workers.

(xi) Facilities for women's education and functional literacy should be strengthened, and access to these made easier for rural women. They should be included in training programmes, in the use of appropriate agricultural techniques and in natural resource management. Women should get priority in the training of trainers.

(xii) Conditions should be created to ensure that rural girls and young women receive at least primary and secondary education, health and vocational training and support to enhance the quality of their lives.

(xiii) Rural women, especially those from disadvantaged households, must be included in training programmes and non-formal education of all types, and given preferential access to fellowships and scholarships.

(xiv) Parents and community leaders should be sensitized and child marriages discouraged, so that boys and girls are given equal opportunity in education and training.

(xv) Adequate resources should be allocated to maintain and improve social services in the areas of education, health, family planning, nutrition and recreation. These are essential to the well-being of rural families and complementary to rural men's and women's productive capacity.

● IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP ●

14. The objectives of this Declaration can be realized only if the strategies outlined are implemented and followed up. To this end:

(i) We welcome the fact that many United Nations agencies have established policies and guidelines concerning their approach to the needs of rural women. We urge that such guidelines be revised, as appropriate, in recognition of the concerns which we have expressed in this Declaration.

(ii) We request all governments to do their utmost to formulate specific plans of action for the advancement of rural women outlining policies, projects and programmes. These plans of action should include a detailed assessment of the resources required and specify institutional responsibilities for mobilizing resources, implementing programmes, and monitoring and evaluation.

(iii) We urge the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions to aid national governments in mobilizing resources for financial and technical assistance, to facilitate the exchange of country/project experiences and to establish a regional apparatus for monitoring the progress of implementation of this Declaration.

(iv) We urge multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and non-governmental organizations substantially to increase their allocation of resources to projects and programmes which fully take into account the specific and individual needs of women, especially in rural areas. In addition, all financing and technical assistance agencies are urged to ensure that the projects they support become increasingly sensitive to issues of poverty and gender. We also urge them to ensure that project monitoring systems maintain gender- and income-specific data on targets and achievements. All food agencies, international financial institutions and other interested inter-governmental bodies should seek to reinforce existing mechanisms so as to improve coordination of their activities to implement the recommendations of this Declaration.

(v) We appeal to all governments that have already signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other United Nations resolutions pertaining to rural women to implement them fully, and urge governments which have not done so to ratify the Convention.

(vi) We appeal to all governments and regional and international organizations to report to the 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women on quantifiable progress in implementing policies and

programmes with significant positive impact on the economic and social well-being of rural women and their families.

(vii) We recognize that within the context of international cooperation (i.e., North-South and South-South relations) the rural women of our countries represent a potent political force. This force can be utilized to strengthen and consolidate international cooperation in all its forms. We regard the initiative of this Summit as a step towards the building of bridges between rural women across continents - making a contribution to a new form of international cooperation - which will have a significant impact on global development, peace and harmony. We call on the international community to support this initiative, as provided for in Resolution E/1991/64, dated 26 July 1991, of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), which reflects the spirit and content of this Declaration in policies and programmes at all levels.

(viii) We declare that we remain fully committed to the realization of the aspirations of rural women as reflected in this Declaration. We will continue to work together in the coming years to mobilize political and financial resources and to establish enduring procedures globally, regionally and nationally to monitor the implementation of the Declaration.

(ix) Finally, we hereby resolve to establish at the global level a committee of representatives of the wives of Heads of State or Government with three members from each continent. This group will meet biennially to review the progress of implementation and to support national and regional initiatives for the advancement of rural women.

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30 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on the Middle East peace process, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 35 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on the Middle East peace process, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992

The European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community reaffirms its support for the peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991, which provides a unique opportunity for peace. It is of paramount importance for the world and Europe in particular, which has an essential role to play in the political and economic stability of the region. The European Council pays a tribute to the commitment and perseverance of the co-sponsors as well as to the wisdom and courage displayed by the parties directly involved.

The European Council has taken note of the results of the election in Israel. It believes that these results, which are an illustration of the democratic tradition in Israel, will reinforce the peace process and the commitment to a just and lasting settlement. It hopes that the new Israeli Government, as well as the Arab parties involved, will seize the opportunity to negotiate a comprehensive peace.

The European Council recognizes that it is for the parties to the dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them. But the European Council reiterates its belief that for an agreement to prove just and lasting it will have to be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which enshrine the principle of land for peace. It should provide for the security of all States in the region, including Israel, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The European Council reiterates the need for all parties to commit themselves to the peace process, to refrain from all acts of violence and to avoid any action likley to endanger the negotiations, or to threaten the climate of confidence. It hopes that the new Israeli Government and the Arab parties will act quickly to implement confidence-building measures. It looks forward to a halt to the building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law, and to full application of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The European Council also calls upon the members of the Arab League to lift the boycott of trade to Israel, which is incompatible with the spirit of the peace process.

The European Council reiterates the commitment of the European Economic Community and its member States to play a constructive and active role in the peace process, in both its bilateral and multilateral tracks, based on the Community's well-known positions of principle. Both Israel and her Arab neighbours can rely on Europe's commitment to building a future of peace and

prosperity in the region in the light of progress achieved in the peace process.

The European Council reiterates the Community's wish for full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). It reaffirms its support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. It calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and for cooperation by the parties with the United Nations forces serving there. The European Council believes that the Lebanese people should be permitted to make their views known in elections which are held under conditions guaranteed to be free and fair.

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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on the relations between Europe and the Maghreb, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 67 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on relations between Europe and the Maghreb, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992

The European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community reaffirms its solidarity with the Maghreb countries and its firm determination to continue its overall policy of contributing to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region on the basis of an approach favouring partnership.

The European Economic Community and its member States consider that their relations with the Maghreb countries must be founded on a common commitment to:

(a) Respect international law, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council;

(b) Respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in civil, political, economic, social and cultural matters, as well as democtratic values, exemplified by free and regular elections;

(c) The establishment of democratic institutional systems guaranteeing pluralism, effective participation by citizens in the lives of their States and respect for the rights of minorities;

(d) Tolerance and coexistence between cultures and religions, the political dialogue between the Communtiy and its member States and the Maghreb countries should permit a regular exchange of information and greater mutual consultation on political and security matters. Similarly, the Community and its member States hope that this dialogue will as soon as possible extend to elected representatives and the social partners. The Community and its member States are also ready, at the appropriate time, to continue the dialogue entered into with the Arab-Maghrebian Union.

In the economic field, the European Council reiterates its support for the harmonious development of the Maghreb region with a view to its economic integration, the introduction of true market economies and the modernization of economic systems.

In this context, the European Council, mindful of the possibilities for action already dedided upon in the context of the Renovated Mediterranean Policy (RMP), to which the Community remains firmly committed, considers that a true Europe-Maghreb partnership should encourage the continuation of economic reforms and a substantial increase in private investment, and more particularly, joint ventures between firms in Europe and the Maghreb, with a view to promoting job-creating activities.

The European Council states that the Community is ready to play a full part in such an undertaking, in particular through financial cooperation,

especially in the context of the RMP, investment promotion, increased technical cooperation in all areas of common interest and ultimately, by stages, the setting-up of a free-trade area. The European Council notes that talks have already made it possible to explore this approach with Morocco and hopes that rapid progress can be made along these lines. It proposes that a similar approach be adopted towards other countries in the region.

In the social field, the European Council considers that priority consideration must be given to the problems raised on both sides of the Mediterranean by:

(a) Migration and the living and working conditions of migrant communities;

(b) Demographic imbalances and the attendant economic and social disparities.

In the cultural field, the European Council considers that more exchanges, in particular of young people, university students and staff, sciertists and those in the media, are vital for a better knowledge and mutual understanding of peoples and cultures in Europe and the Maghreb.

Through the progressive attainment of the objectives cited, in particular that of partnership, the European Council shows its firm determination to place relations between Europe and the Maghreb on a footing which, in scale and intensity, is commensurate with the links forged by geography and by history.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on former Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on former Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992

The European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community strongly condemns the continuing violence which has ravaged the territory of the former Yugoslavia for over a year, resulting in an appalling loss of life and a desperate humanitarian situation, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although all parties have contributed, in their own way, to the present state of affairs, by far the greatest share of responsibility falls on the Serbian leadership and the Yugoslav army controlled by it. The European Economic Community and its member States stress again the need for full application of the sanctions stipulated by the United Nations Security Council.

The European Council deplores in particular that the reopening of Sarajevo airport for humanitarian purposes, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 758 (1992), has not been achieved. Further measures are therefore required. The European Economic Community and its member States will propose that the legally competent body, the United Nations Security Council, take, without delay, all necessary measures for the reopening of the airport and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and neighbouring areas. The Community and its member States are ready to cooperate in that as far as is legally and practically possible for them to do so. This may include airborne humanitarian aid. While giving priority to peaceful means, the European Council does not exclude support for the use of military means by the United Nations to achieve these humanitarian objectives.

Noting the declaration by the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union of 19 June 1992, the European Council welcomes the study being carried out by this organization of possible means in support of actions undertaken in the framework of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The European Council is gravely preoccupied by the increasingly intolerable situation of the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In spite of actions already undertaken, in particular by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Council considers that further important financial help will be needed. The Commission will coordinate these efforts with the other Group of 24 countries.

With regard to Kosovo, the European Council expects the Serbian leadership to refrain from further repression and to engage in serious dialogue with representatives of this territory. The European Council reminds the inhabitants of Kosovo that their legitimate quest for autonomy should be dealt with in the framework of the Conference in Yugoslavia. It stresses the need to dispatch immediately observers to Kosovo as well as to neighbouring

countries in order to prevent the use of violence and with a view to contributing to the restoration of confidence. The Community and its member States call upon the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to take the necessary steps to that effect and stand ready, as far as they are concerned, to take part in such a mission.

The European Council reiterates the position taken by the European Economic Community and its member States at Guimarães on the request of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to be recognized as an independent State. It expresses its readiness to recognize that Republic within its existing borders according to their declaration on 16 December 1991 under a name which does not include the term Macedonia. It furthermore considers the borders of this Republic as inviolable and guaranteed in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of Paris.

The European Economic Community and its member States will not recognize the new federal entity comprising Serbia and Montenegro as the successor State of the former Yugoslavia until the moment a decision has been taken by the qualified international institutions. They have decided to demand the suspension of the delegation of Yugoslavia in the proceedings at the CSCE and other international forums and organizations. The European Council states its determination to help the peoples of former Yugoslavia in their quest for a peaceful future in Europe and reiterates that the EC Conference on Yugoslavia, chaired by Lord Carrington, is the only forum capable of ensuring a durable and equitable solution to the outstanding problems of the former Yugoslavia, including constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The European Council urges all parties involved in the peace process to participate fully and without further delay in the negotiations sponsored by the Conference.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Items 43, 47, 61 (f), 79 (a) and (b), 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 (c), 85, 86, 90, 94, 96 and 125 of the preliminary list*

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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TRAINING AND RESEARCH
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
NARCOTIC DRUGS
FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA

Letter dated 2 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I attach herewith the letter dated 15 May 1992 by which His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, transmits to you the paper prepared by the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen), of which he is the Chairman-Coordinator, at its annual meeting held from 27 to 29 November 1991 at Caracas, Venezuela, giving its position on the new world order.

President Abdou Diouf would be extremely grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 43, 47, 61 (f), 79 (a) and (b), 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 (c), 85, 86, 90, 94, 96 and 125 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mame Balla SY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 May 1992 from the President of Senegal addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the decision taken at its second annual meeting held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 27 to 29 November 1991, the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen) has prepared a position paper on the new world order which, in my capacity as Chairman-Coordinator, I have just made public and which I have the pleasure of transmitting to you for circulation as an official document of the United Nations (see appendix).

It is my hope that this paper will contribute to the emergence of a new international consensus for development and will provide meaningful support to you in the performance of your noble task.

APPENDIX

POSITION PAPER OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN ON THE NEW WORLD ORDER

We, the Heads of State and Government, members of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation - known as the Group of Fifteen - being resolved to contribute to the creation of a world that is more just and equitable, hence more peaceful and prosperous and having analyzed the developments in the present international situation

Declare that:

1. The present period has been characterized by a series of events of world-wide scope and consequence which present, on the one hand, favourable prospects for global peace and prosperity through international cooperation and, on the other, pose complex challenges and uncertainties for all States, but especially for those of the South, with profound implications for the maintenance of international peace and security.

2. The end of the Cold War and the disappearance of East-West tensions, political developments in Eastern Europe, a movement towards disarmament, the progressive settlement of regional disputes and the emergence of closer regional cooperation, greater political democratization and popular participation in decision-making, and growing globalization and economic interdependence, provide a unique opportunity for the revival of international cooperation for development.

3. At the same time increasing interlinkages and growing economic interdependence have made developing countries more vulnerable to external factors especially as most have already undertaken autonomous liberalization of their economies, including their trade regimes and are moving towards deregulation and the opening up of their economies. Simultaneously, the imbalance and uncertainties in the management of the global economic system, with consequential strains on the world trade and payment systems, have acquired an endemic character. Moreover, the gap between the developed North and the developing South continues to grow and the economic and social problems of the developing world, despite some progress during the past few decades continues to be manifold. This has

been made more acute by a significant technological revolution that has affected patterns of production, consumption, trade, growth and markets. Developing countries strongly support a world economic order based on multilateral rules that respect free competition, the market, justice and fair play. The success of programmes of restructuring and economic development however, depend not only on national policies but also on conditions prevailing in the international economic environment.

4. The present global changes however, have not led to a renewed focus on Development. Rather, the trend in international dialogue reflects a dominant North-North approach and closer East-West political and economic cooperation. This carries the risk of increasing the marginalization of countries of the South which account for two-thirds of mankind.

5. Sufficient attention needs to be paid to development if the new wave of democracy and the lessening of international tensions is to prevail. Massive and persistent problems of poverty, under-development, unemployment, health and illiteracy are likely to undermine the consolidation of democratic processes and human rights. This in turn generates political and social tensions, the consequences of which could compromise the present trend towards global detente and cooperation and threaten global peace and security. Development, therefore becomes a precondition for sustaining democracy and global peace, all of which should be consciously worked for in a comprehensive and constructive manner.

6. Peace is indivisible and security is the right of all and not the privilege of a few. Global security can only be achieved and maintained if just and lasting solutions are found to all conflicts. Global security should, however, be viewed in terms of its multidimensional aspects and be based not only on military imperatives, but on a combination of political, economic and social factors which together could eliminate the risks to global security caused by problems such as underdevelopment, poverty, environmental degradation, terrorism and drug trafficking.

7. There is thus a common responsibility for the economic, social and political stability of the world and for the creation of a New World Order that is truly multilateral and non-discriminatory and takes into account the growing interdependence and mutuality of interests among the community of nations.

Democracy at the national level should continue to be of paramount importance and democratization among States should become a reality at the international level in order to facilitate the participation of all States in the process of international decision-making.

8. The United Nations should play the central role in a collective effort to define the New World Order which should be based on the rule of law and on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter relating to the concepts of sovereignty, equality and universality, and the acknowledgement of national specificities. It must also ensure the fullest respect for the territorial integrity and independence of States.

9. A clear awareness of the urgent need for shared responsibility and joint action to ensure world economic stability, irrespective of the economic and political power of individual nations, together with a growing convergence of views regarding the identification of global priorities, would facilitate the emergence of a new international consensus on development. While there is full commitment to the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, it is imperative that development is placed at the centre of the international agenda and a supportive international environment is created to facilitate the achievement of this objective. The collective right of peoples to develop should be given maximum emphasis and recognition. Moreover, the identification and pursuit of development goals must take into account the levels of development as well as the historical and socio-economic conditions of individual countries, the complementary roles of the State and market and cannot be fashioned according to the imposition of external norms and priorities.

10. The Group of Fifteen solemnly reaffirms its commitment to a constructive and continuous dialogue with the industrialized countries as an essential condition for the optimum management of global interdependence. An international consensus centred on development is an urgent necessity. The Group reaffirms its resolute will to strengthen multilateral cooperation and to work together in the quest for new ways of resolving problems through cooperation, a constructive spirit and mutual support. The Group of Fifteen declares its readiness to act to this effect with all its partners in the North and in particular those within the G-7.

11. The new international consensus should be expressed in a practical way, the main elements of which should include the following issues of concern and interest to the international community and, in particular, to the developing countries:

DEMOCRATIZATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

12. Democracy, human rights and development are three concepts of the greatest significance and must be addressed in an integrated manner. While it is important to promote the strengthening of the constitutional State, democracy and pluralism at the national level, with due respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, it is imperative that democratization among States should become a reality at the international level.

13. All States must promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights, taking into account their indivisible nature and the distinctive cultural characteristics of each nation. Civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are inter-related and should therefore be promoted and defended with equal commitment. It is necessary to further non-selective, non-discriminating international cooperation in the field of human rights, strengthening respect for freedom and concord in the political, legal, economic and social domains. The Right to Development must be recognized and accepted as a fundamental human right. Development is a prerequisite for the sustainability of democratic processes and the respect of human rights. The observance of human rights should be promoted in an objective manner by the relevant organs in the international system based on the principles of the UN Charter. It is also imperative that Democracy, Human Rights and Development should be the central theme of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993.

DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

14. The process of disarmament should be linked to the process of development and the fostering of global security in its most comprehensive form. Developing countries will endeavour to encourage the process of disarmament globally and regionally, conscious of the necessity to channel the maximum resources for developmental purposes. Moreover, real

resources being released at present as a result of lower global military spending, should be diverted for the economic and social development of developing countries. The continuing trend towards disarmament resulting from the end of East-West confrontation, the reduction of military expenditures and the progressive reduction of international tensions should make it possible to extract a "peace dividend" in the form of financial and technical resources, for the enhancement of international development cooperation.

15. Appropriate structures or bodies should be established to implement this process and the creation of an International Fund within the framework of the United Nations, represents the best way of channelling resources freed as a result of disarmament for the purposes of development.

ERADICATION OF POVERTY

16. The fight against poverty should be understood not only in terms of providing assistance with a view to improving the living standards of the poor, but also as a means of reinforcing their economic well-being and long-term prospects. Furthermore, the interests of the economically and socially weaker sections of society who fall outside the market process must be safeguarded. It is necessary that a special commitment is made by the international community to initiate urgent measures to alleviate poverty in the least developed countries. The alleviation of poverty, especially in its most extreme forms, continues to be of prime concern to developing countries and must remain at the centre of national development efforts in the countries of the South and of international development cooperation.

TERRORISM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

17. Terrorism has emerged as one of the most dangerous and pernicious threats to international, political and social stability and must be dealt with in an urgent and effective manner. Terrorism in fact violates the human rights of the innocent victims of its manifest activity.

18. Often, terrorism is linked with the global problem of illicit drug trafficking. It is essential to cope with this problem that the high levels of consumption in all countries be reduced and world-wide support is provided for drug

control and crop substitution strategies with a view to offering those agricultural workers involved in drug production with the option of legal, profitable and competitive economic activities.

FOREIGN DEBT AND THE FLOW OF RESOURCES

19. On the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, more positive, fair and realistic measures are called for to extend and broaden the mechanisms for reducing all types of debt, while being sensitive to the specific problems and needs of each country.

20. The recent implementation of debt reduction schemes are welcomed. These initiatives must be strengthened and broadened for all classes of debtor countries and must be more effectively implemented especially for those countries which have made great efforts to meet their debt obligations. The international community should moreover commit itself to ensuring a substantial increase in the net transfer of concessional resources to all regions of the South to revitalize the development process and free the developing countries from the overhang of the rising debt burden.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

21. Maintenance of an open, multilateral trading system is of prime importance for the expansion of world trade and the development of all countries. For this purpose, there is a need for multilateral rules that provide for an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable international trading system which safeguards competition, promotes open markets, equity and fairness and creates better conditions for the effective integration of developing countries into the world economy. To this end no effort must be spared to obtain an early, balanced and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

22. A balanced, positive outcome from the Uruguay Round should reflect every aspect of the negotiations and take into account the interests of all parties concerned, particularly the needs of developing countries. In particular, the results should ensure the substantive enhancement of market access for developing country exports, rules and disciplines for the transparent and fair conduct of international trade and developing country access to technology

and investment. All forms of protectionism maintained by developed countries should be immediately halted and rolled back. Moreover, special attention should be given to reducing the balance of payments deficits of developing countries and to safeguarding the pursuit of their legitimate development goals and public policy objectives.

23. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is unique in terms of being a universal, multidisciplinary forum whose mandate places development as its cornerstone and has an important role in the international trading system. The Eighth Session of UNCTAD held in Cartegena des Indias (February 8-25, 1992) recognizing the urgent need for institutional adaptation and revitalization of UNCTAD has confirmed its role to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. Its functions compromising global policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations, consensus building and negotiation, monitoring, implementation and follow-up, and technical cooperation should be strengthened.

PRIMARY COMMODITIES

24. A strengthened and effective international policy on commodities should be designed and pursued with a view to achieving a long-term solution to commodity problems and maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to development. Possibilities exist for international cooperation between producer and consumer countries. Given an improvement in access to markets, improved supply management and better use of technology, such cooperation should lead to the achievement of greater levels of diversification of the economies of developing countries which have become more competitive and increase their share in the processing, marketing and distribution of their commodity based products.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS

25. The emphasis being placed by developing countries on the process of economic integration is welcomed, and the creation of regional and sub-regional groups in the South should constitute one of the prime aspects of

South-South cooperation. These groups are in fact an asset to the development of a dynamic and mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries concerned. The collective efforts of the South, through such cooperation will help to build a negotiating platform that will offer the developing countries the status of a genuine partner in their relations with the North.

26. The present global trends towards economic integration, aimed at extending markets, increasing productivity and competitiveness and generating investment, must also be welcomed and encouraged. This trend, however, presents risks that must be firmly and resolutely faced by acting in such a way that the main aim continues to be the creation of an open and transparent world trading system.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

27. There is a need for the international community to explore ways and means for promoting cooperation in science and technology between developed and developing countries aimed at intensifying the transfer of technology to developing countries to help them enhance their own scientific and technological capabilities. It is necessary to improve the access of developing countries to new technologies on fair and reasonable terms and to foster their dissemination and use. The search for solutions to these problems could be made in the framework of the revitalization and strengthening of the UN bodies with expertise in science, technology and intellectual property. National, sub-regional and regional institutions concerned with science and technology must also be called on to contribute, and cooperation between enterprises and scientific and technological institutions from developed and developing countries should be encouraged.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

28. To achieve sustainable development, the development and improvement of human resources are indispensable prerequisites as they will promote and reinforce scientific and technological capabilities as well as enhance the ability of countries to mobilize and rationally use their financial and natural resources. Effective cooperation among countries through the sharing of their resources, experiences and know-how can make a huge contribution to

improving and increasing the vast potential in human resources which the South possesses. Developing countries continue to give the highest priority to the development of human resources although efforts in this area have been hampered by the implementation of economic adjustment programmes which have compromised the development of health and educational facilities and other basic social services. International cooperation in this field must therefore be encouraged and enhanced, while respecting the cultural and social dimensions of development.

29. The development of human resources can only be achieved effectively where there peoples participation and respect for the rights and liberties of individuals, especially of women and children.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

30. The threat to the global environment comes mainly from past and present industrialization practices and profligate consumption in the industrialized countries. This has negative repercussions on countries in general, with particularly harmful consequences for developing countries, which are more vulnerable to environmental problems.

31. Though firmly committed to the protection, preservation and rational use of the environment, the developing countries nevertheless need to give a fresh impetus to their economies in order to eradicate poverty, and to guarantee viable growth in both economic and environmental terms. The solving of environmental problems should be an integral part of strategies of economic development in order to ensure and consolidate the sustainability of both processes.

32. Agreements, programmes and any other global initiative, such as the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development, the "Earth Summit", aimed at solving ecological problems and achieving sustainable development, call for concerted international cooperation in all areas, including the transfer of environmentally-sound technology, free and open trade and the availability of new and additional financial resources. International cooperation for the protection of the environment and the enhancement of sustainable development should be based on the principle of equitable and proportional responsibilities among nations, taking into

account the existing disparities between developed and developing countries and their respective capacities and resources. The implementation of such cooperation should respect the principle of permanent sovereignty of nations with regard to their natural resources. It should also give due importance to the principle that each country should have the right to determine its own priorities based on its needs and level of socio-economic development.

POPULATION

33. The high rates of population growth in almost all developing countries may represent a real mortgaging of their social and economic development. It is becoming imperative for those involved politically and culturally at national and international levels to be effectively called on to help to raise public awareness and mobilize political and popular commitment and the necessary financial and technical means to take a conclusive step towards the formulation and implementation of appropriate demographic policies. The World Conference on Population and Development planned for 1994 ought to be the opportunity for working out and adopting policies and programmes aimed at achieving global demographic objectives.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

34. An essential feature of the new international consensus on development is encouragement and support for South-South cooperation as a means of moving towards, on the one hand, increased collective self-reliance and on the other, sustained development nationally and regionally as well as globally.

35. South-South cooperation is an integral part of the strategy for giving a fresh impetus to international cooperation for development. The countries of the South must make full use of the possibilities for strengthening their links with each other so as to consolidate the foundations of their collective self-reliance. This implies developing and multiplying contacts, enhancing closer and more direct communication and transport links, the flow and exchange of information and knowledge, cultural exchanges and the harmonizing of positions on international questions. In this regard, it would be judicious to perceive the development of this cooperation in terms of an evolving process

into which the countries concerned must enter by way of viable projects open to all other developing countries.

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

36. The Group of Fifteen strongly supports multilateralism in which inter-State relations are conducted in a truly democratic manner and in which no interests are ignored and from which no nation is left out. The global phenomenon of the resurgence of democracy should be extended to the international field through a genuine democratisation of international relations and the revitalization of multilateral structures under the United Nations, for security, disarmament and development.

37. The United Nations Organization should play a crucial role in the creation and maintenance of a New World Order. The United Nations would have to be reformed in such a way so as to increase its effectiveness to cope with the evolving international situation and to effectively eliminate the threats to global peace and security which have their roots in economic and social imbalances and underdevelopment. The basis for strengthening the role of the United Nations should be the recognition that the management of world affairs is a question of shared responsibility. One of the fundamental aims should be to rectify the imbalance among international bodies, which should give each other mutual support with a view to achieving their common aims, namely the maintenance of peace and international security, the promotion of economic and social development, the protection and restoration of the environment and the defence and promotion of human rights and democracy.

38. The revitalization of the United Nations should also be reflected in a strengthened role and function for the General Assembly and the office of Secretary-General. The Security Council should be democratized. It should be committed to the principles of openness and transparency in its decision-making and should act at all times with respect for the sovereign rights of States.

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